

A 1 1/8. (New) An electrical connector for connecting to a plug having a plurality of electrical contacts, the connector comprising:

- a) a plurality of metallic spring contacts, each of the spring contacts including:
 - 1) a circuit board connection end;
 - 2) a first longitudinally extending section;
 - 3) a main bend section;
 - 4) a second longitudinally extending section, wherein the first longitudinally extending section, the main bend section, and the second longitudinally extending section define a general V-shape;
- b) a dielectric contact housing for holding the spring contacts, wherein the contact housing defines an x-axis, a y-axis and a z-axis, the contact housing configured for receipt of the plug in a direction of the x-axis, wherein:
 - 1) the contact housing includes a base for receiving each of the first longitudinally extending sections of the spring contacts extending parallel to the x-axis, wherein the base defines at least one dielectric channel extending in the direction of the x-axis and positioned between the first longitudinally extending sections of two spring contacts;
 - 2) the base includes a front end and a rear end, the front end defining spring channels for receiving the first longitudinally extending sections of the spring contacts, wherein the dielectric channel and the spring channels define open ends at the front end of the base and extend toward the rear end of the base;
- c) a printed circuit board mounted to the spring contacts at the circuit board connection ends, wherein the printed circuit board defines a plane parallel to the y and z axes.

12/9. (New) The connector of claim 8, wherein the base of the contact housing includes a plurality of first longitudinal openings extending from a first exterior surface generally parallel to the x and z axes, each of the first longitudinal openings extending into the base to one of the first longitudinally extending sections of the spring contacts.

Serial No.: 10/023,051
Applicant: Schmidt et al.
Filed: December 17, 2002
Docket: 2316.1007USC2

~~3/10~~ (New) The connector of claim ~~9~~¹⁰, wherein the base of the contact housing includes a plurality of second longitudinal openings extending from a second exterior surface generally parallel to the first exterior surface and positioned on an opposite side of the contact housing, each of the second longitudinal openings extending into the base to one of the first longitudinally extending sections of the spring contacts.

~~4/11~~ (New) The connector of claim ~~10~~¹¹, wherein the first and second longitudinal openings alternate along the z-axis, wherein only one of the first and second longitudinal openings is provided for each spring contact.